Sectt. II-48—6,001—26-9-15.

Development (1921) Department.

Fries SERIES.

G.O. No. 2291 (D)

DATED 14-12-21

[Despatch Abstract.]

Legislative Council meeting — Oct

Question — Fires —

Reserve forests in S. Kanara

F.

xla

D7988.1

31.8.21

,000—22-7-21.

QUESTION.—No. 729 for the meeting of the Legislative Council to be held ~~on the~~ in September 1921

SUBMITTED that two copies of this Question may be forwarded to the Revel Department Department.

The Question has been admitted.

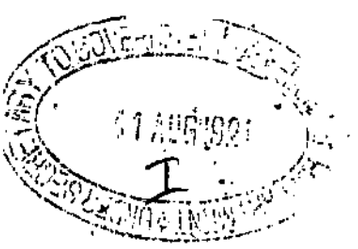
30/8/21

L. D. S
30-8-2

U.O. No. 2333-I dated 31-8-21

To

The Development Department



V

Council Office.

Question. 20th August 1921.

Mr. K. Sadasiva Bhat.

The Development Department

729. (1) To ask the Hon'ble the Home Member what extent of reserved forests in South Kanara has been destroyed by fires in the last five years, (2) and if the Government have been able to trace the cause of such fires, (3) and what steps the Government propose to take to prevent such damage in the future.

S.G.

Received in the fair-copying section

Copied by C.T. 14/9/1921.

Examined by

Signed

Despatched

Insert C.C.'s pencil figures.

done. Vide next page

DESPATCHED
14 SEP 1921

3

Draft Answer.

Q.729.

(1) The figures of reserved forests burnt over, not necessarily destroyed by fire, for each of the last five years are appended.

(2) The Forest Dept are frequently unable to trace the cause of such fires with certainty, but with the exception of 567 acres it is probable that the whole extent under discussion was burnt through malice or carelessness of the public.

(3) The Hon'ble Member is referred to para.9 of the Govt.'s review on the - Forest Administration report for 1919-20 from which he will observe that the Govt. see no prospect of the Forest Dept. preventing such fires unless it receives - adequate help from the public. ~~The Govt. consider that~~ The Hon'ble Rao Bahadur and other Members of the Leg: Council might render valuable aid in stimulating public opinion to discourage this habitual destruction of public property.

Appendix

P.T.O

Appendix.

Years.	Burnt by to def in the course of burning fire lines acres	Burnt by the public either maliciously or carelessly acres	Total. acres
1915-16	17	317.9	3196
1916-17	59	6323	6382
1917-18	26	7088	7114
1918-19	244	5411	5655
1919-20	221	5767	5988.
	567	27,768.	28335

Rwa
10.9.21

10 9 21

5 GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT.

Mr. K. Sadasiva Bhat.

Question No.729. (1) To ask the Hon'ble the Home Member what extent of reserved forests in South Kanara has been destroyed by fires in the last five years;

(2) ~~xxx~~ if the Government have been able to trace the causes of such fires; and

(3) what steps the Government propose to take to prevent such damage in the future.

A N S W E R.

729 (1) The figures of reserved forests burnt over, not necessarily destroyed by fire, for each of the last five years are appended.

(2) The Forest Department are frequently unable to trace the cause of such fires with certainty but with the exception of 567 acres it is probable that the whole extent under discussion was burnt through the malice or carelessness of the public.

(3) The Hon'ble Member is referred to paragraph 9 of the Government's review on the Forest Administration Report for 1919-20 from which he will observe that the Government see no prospect of the Forest Department preventing the majority of such fires unless and until it receives adequate help from the public. The Hon'ble Member and other Members of the Legislative Council might render valuable aid in stimulating public opinion to discourage this habitual destruction of public property.

Fort St. George,
Dated the 14th September '21.

J.M.Turing,
Secretary to Government.

To the Legislative Council Office.

DESPATCHED
14 SEP 1921

The above answer has been approved by the Hon'ble Sir L. Davidson, K.C.S.I.

Forwarded to the Legislative Council Office.

(By Order)

14/9/21
UNDER SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT

D.F. 14/9/1921.

Appendix

6

Appendix.

Years	nt by the Department the course of burning fire lines.	urnt by the public either liciously or carelessly	Total.
	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.
1915-16	17	3179	3196
1916-17	59	6323	6382
1917-18	26	7088	7114
1918-19	244	5411	5655
1919-20	221	5767	5988
	567	27768	28335

------000000-------

1 2

1 Dev Dept

To Under Secy

Please See the Question in the CF It has been admitted.

2 Appendix A attached to each year's administration report gives the number and extent of fires in each district area affected and the causes wherever it is known the causes under which fires are classified are —

(1) fires caused by accident or through carelessness in burning fire lines

(2) fires entering the forests by crossing exterior fire lines

(3) fires caused by carelessness or accident by workmen employed in the forests and by villagers, travellers etc passing through the forest

(4) fires caused by intentional firing.

The following statement shows the total number of fires in the province and the total area affected during the last five years together with the number and area for which causes are not known

fl M

Le. Coming under the forest like in previous para

Years	Causes known		Causes unknown		Total	
	No. of fires	Extent. acres	No. of fires	Extent. acres	No. of fires	Extent. acres
915–16	105	2814	17	382	122	3196
1916–17	205	5057	45	1325	250	6382
1917–18	168	5705	35	1409	203	7114
1918–19	157	4585	33	1070	190	5655
919–20.	153	3794	44	2194	197	5988

3 / with refce to the Concluding portion of the question there is no information in the Office as to whether any Special means have been taken in the District in regard to fire protection

Hon orders therefore whether the file may be referred to C.C.

KRA
2-9-21

Perhaps, the Hon'ble Member may be referred to the last Report for the info required by him

NW
2.9.21

only the last clause remains to be answered

The file may be referred to C.C. for remarks

S/ Kurk
3.9.21

Refer to my last note of June.

My last view on 20th Report

2. Can Hon Minister from enclosure

9

writings by Shibadi firing
(4? 4 4.) from 2nd inst.

30/9/21

Para 1 - marked P

Para 2

Intentional burning" has col- 3 subheads:-

(a) In order to obtain new grass

(b) In order to turn out game or to regenerate ---

(c) Maliciously by ---

To Under Secy.

The following statement gives the ~~figures~~ extent destroyed by intentional firing

	Intentional firing				
	In order to obtain new grass acs.	In order to turn out game or to regenerate cover acs	Malicious fires acs	Total intentional fires acs	Total from all Causes. known & unknown
1915–16	391	58	256	705 ~~449~~	3196
1916–17	373	219	782	1374	6382
1917–18	124	60	991	1175	7114
1918–19	124	595	521	1240	5655
1919–20	42	486	481	1009	5988

Kue 3-9-21 294

S/Kue 3.9.21

21-6 7 05

6

I cannot get any intelligible figures out of my office on this subject. I propose to take advantage of the question to rub in the extent maliciously destroyed by fire as distinguished from the area - deliberately destroyed or destroyed by accident or mistake by the Forest Dept. itself. I should classify under 'malicious' the whole area for which the cause is unknown.

2. I propose to refer to para.9 of the review on the last report, and with reference to the M.L.C.'s last sentence tell him that Govt. are relying on people like himself to educate public opinion on the subject. It is rather a good chance. If the C.C. agrees will he kindly let me have the necessary figures?

C.C. u.o.

6.9.21

(M)

CHIEF CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS * MADRAS * 6 SEP. 1921

6/9

Demi 1988 I/21

6-9-21

U.O.No 177 7.9.21.

D. 2056 II

1915-16	17
1916-17	59
1917-18	26
1918-19	244
1919-20	221
	567 acres

1915-16	3179
1916-17	6323
1917-18	7088
1918-19	5467
1919-20	5467
	27,768 acres

Cir 10-9-21

R.O. 13-9-21

The allegation to give reasons for fire is generally futile. Rangers may be charged about 6 cases without making enquiries to establish fact.

In this particular case all that can be safely said is that the district body was responsible for burning 567 acres in the course of burning fire lines & that the public either accidentally or maliciously burnt 27,768 acres.

7/9/21

To Mr. Secretary to the Devastated Areas Committee

Issue

14.9

10.9

19.9.21

11

Reserve forests in South Kanara.

712 Q.—Mr. K. SADASIVA BHAT: To ask the Hon'ble the Home Member what extent of reserved forests in South Kanara has been destroyed by fires in the last five years, and if the Government have been able to trace the causes of such fires, and what steps the Government propose to take to prevent such damage in the future.

A.—The figures of reserved forests burnt over, not necessarily destroyed by fire, for each of the last five years are appended.*

The Forest Department are frequently unable to trace the cause of such fires with certainty, but with the exception of 567 acres it is probable that the whole extent under discussion was burnt through the malice or carelessness of the public.

The honourable member is referred to paragraph 9 of the Government's review on the Forest Administration Report for 1919-20 from which he will observe that the Government see no prospect of the Forest Department preventing the majority of such fires unless and until it receives adequate help from the public. The honourable member and other members of the Legislative Council might render valuable aid in stimulating public opinion to discourage this habitual destruction of public property.

answer to question No. 712 asked by M.R.Ry. K. Sadasiva Bhat at the eeting of the Legislative Council held on the 12th October 1921, page 867. pra.]

	Burnt by the department in the course of burning fire lines.	Burnt by the public either maliciously or carelessly	Total.
	Acs.	Acs.	Acs.
1915-16	17	3,179	3,196
1916-17	59	6,323	6,382
1917-18	26	7,088	7,114
1918-19	244	5,411	5,655
1919-20	221	5,767	5,988
Total	567	27,768	28,335

18

Form A 2291 9 14 12/21

Recorded

Kur 12/12

Kur 12-12-21

Hst

Le meeting - Oct 1921.

Question — Fires

Reserve forests in South Kanara with —

CRR 18.12